

# OUTLINE FOR LEADING OR USING 'BECOMING LIKE CHRIST IN MY CHARACTER AND SELF-GIVING LOVE' AS TWO UNITS

These notes are designed to be used alongside the Facilitator's notes. They will give you the content focus in a full or simplified form and an outline for running 'Becoming like Christ in my character and self-giving love' in two parts.

The facilitator notes and worship powerpoints give you instructions on anything you will need beforehand, preparation checklist and prayers for leaders, the outcomes of the two units, possible opening and reflection discussion questions, signposting suggestions to extra materials, closing prayer suggestions, and review questions for leaders.

One way of dividing the session this may be to use the content of the first unit in a Sunday service, and the second in a group.

However you do it, making sure you include feedback to one another, modelling and the opportunity to respond remains central to the approach of the course.

## UNIT SEVEN: BECOMING LIKE CHRIST IN MY CHARACTER AND SELF-GIVING LOVE

Begin with worship (you can use the suggested activity and powerpoint).

### FEEDBACK AND OPENING QUESTION

In their pairs from the end of the last session, ask people to feedback to each other how their experience of their response action(s) from last week has been - the emphasis is on mutual encouragement in accountability, not guilt!

Then in pairs ask people to discuss an opening question for 3 minutes. You can use the suggestion in the facilitator's notes or devise your own.



## CORE TEACHING CONTENT

Use the powerpoint to present, or read/discuss these questions in the booklet:

What is Christian character?

What is love?

How is the cross the greatest revelation of God's character and love?

What does this show about the main way God works in the world?

How should this make Christian love distinctive?

Doesn't this make God look weak?

How do I become like Christ in my relationships?

How does this shape the church community?

**OR**

You can cover this material in a simplified way using and discussing the question "How should this make Christian love distinctive?"

## MODELLING/REFLECTION

The video works better with the next session.

Discuss the question together: Where have I seen self-giving love in action?

## DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 5: 38-48 (Available on separate Worship Aims Bible passage powerpoint)

See the facilitator's notes and instruction sheet for how to do DBS.

## PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.

Give each person time to reflect privately on the questions: "What is God saying to me and what is my response?" Any actions they take will be self-generated. But the following week they will be encouraged at the beginning to report back to one other person.

Explain that there is no requirement for a response, it is not a test, but an opportunity. We have set aside this time in the expectation that God will draw close to us. Ask people to share their responses in pairs. If they wish to help one another by writing down any actions and praying for each other then encourage them to do so. There is no group feedback, but as facilitator you can share what you feel able in order to model gentle accountability and trust.

## SIGNPOSTING, CLOSING PRAYER AND REVIEW.

See facilitator's notes.



# UNIT EIGHT: HOW DOES CHRISTIAN CHARACTER GROW?

Begin with worship (you can use the suggested activity and powerpoint).

## FEEDBACK AND OPENING QUESTION

In their pairs from the end of the last session, ask people to feedback to each other how their experience of their response action(s) from last week has been - the emphasis is on mutual encouragement in accountability, not guilt!

Then in pairs ask people to discuss an opening question for 3 minutes. You can use the suggestion in the facilitator's notes or devise your own.

## CORE TEACHING CONTENT

Use the powerpoint to present, or read/discuss these questions in the booklet:

Can I really become the kind of Christlike person who can love others - including enemies and forgiving those who hurt me?

How is my mind renewed?

How do I grow in wanting what God wants?

How do I give God the space to change me?

How much is God's work, and how much is mine?

Can this happen on my own?

**OR**

You can cover this material in a simplified way using the Character Change handout.

## MODELLING/REFLECTION

You can show part of the video, covering the questions: What helps you love those who don't love you?

How do you allow God to change your character?

Discuss these questions together, offering your own experience as much as possible.

## PERSONAL RESPONSE AND ACTION FOR COMING WEEK.

Give each person time to reflect privately on the questions: "What is God saying to me and what is my response?" Any actions they take will be self-generated. But the following week they will be encouraged at the beginning to report back to one other person.

Explain that there is no requirement for a response, it is not a test, but an opportunity. We have set aside this time in the expectation that God will draw close to us. Ask people to share their responses in pairs. If they wish to help one another by writing down any actions and praying for each other then encourage them to do so. There is no group feedback, but as facilitator you can share what you feel able in order to model gentle accountability and trust.

## SIGNPOSTING, CLOSING PRAYER AND REVIEW.

See facilitator's notes.

